AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16.   (Currently amended) A method, using a receiver, comprising the steps of:

processing a header in a spread-spectrum signal, ~~to generate a reference signal,~~ the processing of the header comprising:

a)   detecting, at a processing frequency, the header in the spread-spectrum signal;

b)   outputting, responsive to detecting the header, a header-detection signal; and

c)   generating, responsive to the header-detection signal, control and timing signals;

despreading a multichannel-spread-spectrum signal embedded in the spread-spectrum signal as a plurality of received spread-spectrum channels, respectively; and

multiplexing data obtained from the plurality of received spread-spectrum channels as received data.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 16, further including, after the step of multiplexing, the step of storing the received data.

19.   (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 16, further including, after the step of multiplexing, the step of decoding the received data.

20. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 16, further including, before the step of processing the header, translating the spread-spectrum signal from a carrier frequency to a processing frequency.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A receiver comprising:

header-detection means for processing a header in a spread-spectrum signal, ~~to generate a reference signal,~~ wherein the header-detection means comprises means for detecting, at a processing frequency, the header in the spread-spectrum signal and for outputting, responsive to detecting the header, a header-detection signal, and for generating, from the header-detection signal, control and timing signals;

receiver-spread-spectrum means, coupled to said header-detection means for despreading a multichannel-spread-spectrum signal embedded in the spread-spectrum signal as a plurality of received spread-spectrum channels, respectively; and

multiplexing means, coupled to said receiver-spread-spectrum means, for multiplexing data from the plurality of received spread-spectrum channels as received data and for outputting the received data to a data output.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 22, further including, coupled to said multiplexing means, receiver-memory means for storing the received data.

25.   (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 22, further including, coupled to said multiplexing means, decoding means for decoding the received data.

26.   (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 22, further including translating means for shifting the spread-spectrum signal from the carrier frequency to a processing frequency.

27.   (Currently amended) A receiver comprising:

a header-detection device for processing the header in a spread-spectrum signal—to generate a reference signal, wherein the header-detection device comprises means for detecting, at the processing frequency, the header in the spread-spectrum signal, for outputting, responsive to detecting the header, a header-detection signal, and for generating, from the header-detection signal, control and timing signals;

receiver-spread-spectrum means for despreading a multichannel-spread-spectrum signal embedded in the spread-spectrum signal as a plurality of received spread-spectrum channels, respectively; and

a multiplexer, coupled to said receiver-spread-spectrum means, for multiplexing data from the plurality of received spread-spectrum channels as received data.

28.   (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 27, further including, coupled to said multiplexer, a receiver memory for storing the received data.

30. (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 27, further including, coupled to said multiplexer, a decoder for decoding the received data.

31. (Previously presented) The receiver as set forth in claim 27, further including a translating device for translating the spread-spectrum signal from the carrier frequency to a processing frequency.

32. (Previously presented) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a spread-spectrum signal;

processing a header in the received spread-spectrum signal in accord with a common chip sequence signal, to produce a control or timing signal;

based at least in part of the control or timing signal, processing the received spread-spectrum signal in accord with respective chip sequence signals so as to despread a multichannel-spread-spectrum signal embedded in the received spread-spectrum signal as a plurality of received spread-spectrum channels, respectively; and

multiplexing data obtained from the plurality of received spread-spectrum channels as a received data output stream.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the common chip sequence signal is further common with respect to a plurality of users.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the processing of the header provides chip-sequence synchronization.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the header is followed in time by the multichannel-spread-spectrum signal, in the received spread-spectrum signal.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising decoding the received data output stream.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising, before the step of processing the header, translating the received spread-spectrum signal from a carrier frequency to a processing frequency.

38. (Previously presented) A receiving system, comprising:

a spread-spectrum receiver;

means for processing a header in a spread-spectrum signal received by the spread-spectrum receiver, in accord with a common chip sequence signal, to produce a control or timing signal;

a multichannel-spread-spectrum despreader responsive to the control or timing signal, for processing the received spread-spectrum signal in accord with respective chip sequence signals so as to despread a multichannel-spread-spectrum signal embedded in the received spread-spectrum signal as a plurality of received spread-spectrum channels, respectively; and

a multiplexer, for multiplexing data obtained from the plurality of received spread-spectrum channels into a received data output stream.

39.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the means for processing the header comprises header-detection means and a processor responsive to the header-detection means for generating the control or timing signal.

40.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the header-detection means comprises a header-matched filter.

41.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the despreader comprises a plurality of data matched filters, each of the data matched filters performing processing with a different one of the respective chip sequence signals.